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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, D.C. 20520

January 24, 1979

MEMORANDUM:

TO: H - Mr. Bennet

FROM: L - Lee R. Marks

SUBJECT: USG Reimbursement for Jonestown Related Expenses

The U.S. Government estimates that the total cost of its Jonestown related activities is expected to be around 4 million dollars. Most of these expenses have been incurred by the Department of Defense which will be reimbursed by the Department of State. 1/

The U.S. Government is actively attempting to secure reimbursement for these expenditures from Peoples Temple funds. On January 22, the Department of Justice filed a complaint in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California against the Peoples Temple 2/ seeking reimbursement for expenses incurred.

Previously the U.S. Government had sent diplomatic notes to various countries asking for their

1/ See attached justification sent today to GAO.

2/ The complaint named 4 Peoples Temple organizations as defendants; a California corporation, a Panamanian organization, and two Guyanese corporations.

assistance in identifying and immobilizing any People's Temple assets within their jurisdiction. Over $10 million have now been immobilized in Panama; we expect funds to be similarly immobilized elsewhere.

Concern has been expressed whether additional expenses might be incurred for burying some or all of the unclaimed bodies now in Dover, Delaware. On January 23, a California Superior Court judge gave the Emergency Relief Committee, a California church group, 30 days to present a plan for transporting and interring the approximately 600 bodies still at Dover Air Force Base. If this plan is approved, People's Temple funds would be used to dispose of these remaining bodies. If this plan is not approved, and the U.S. Government must assume burial costs for any of the remaining bodies, we would sue for reimbursement from the People's Temple for these funds as well.